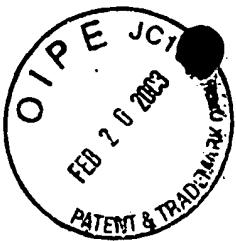


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Byon *et al.*) Group Art Unit 1621
Appl. No. : 09/970,043)
Filed : October 2, 2001) I hereby certify that this correspondence and all
For : **LOW MOLECULAR**) marked attachments are being deposited with the
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Examiner : McIntosh III, Traviss C) Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C.
) 20231, on
) February 12, 2003
) (Date)
)
Mincheol Kim, Reg. No. 51,306

02/21/2003 MMDHAMM1 00000085 09970043

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AMENDMENT
AND
RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed August 13, 2002 in the above-captioned application, Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments indicated below and reconsideration of the claims in view of the amendments and remarks set forth below.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 10, 11, 18, 25, 27-28, 35, 49, 53-54 and 57-58 without prejudice.

Please amend Claims 1, 3, 7-9, 12, 13, 24, 29-34, 36-41, 48, 50-52, 55, 56 and 59-61 as follows:

1. (Amended) A method of preparing a polymannuronate composition, comprising:
providing alginate;